Strowger MAX-III and MAX-II are in operation now.

(iv) Life expired and unserviceable trnasmission systems have been replaced. Digital link to 21 District H.Qs. out of 30 and reliable transmission media like OFC, Digital Microwave and Satellite have been provided to 166 exchanges of which 121 have been covered during the first four years of 8th Plan upto 31-3.96, covering all important stations like District Head Quarters, Sub Divisional Head Quarters, Tehsil, Tourist and Indistrial growth centres.

(v) Cuttack Manual Trunk Exchange has been fully computerised.

(vi) 654 exchanges out of total 705 exchanges in Orissa have been brought under STD network as on 1.7.96 of which 464 exchanges have been covered during 8th Plan.

(vii) During the four years of 8th Five Year Plan up to 1.4.96 net switching capacity of 1,10,599 lines have been added and 85,756 DELs have been provided.

(viii) No. of exchanges increased from 537 to 705.

(c) The programmes proposed for the remaining period of 8th Five Year Plan, that is during '96-97 are as follows:

Net Switching Capacity addition	— 33200 Lines.
Direct Exchange Lines	— 27000 Lines.
Village Public Telephones	— 5000 Nos.
TAX Capacity	— 5000 Lines
Replacement of Electro-mechanical exchanges MAX-I.	— 1 No. (Cuttack Lev-2 Crossbar Exchange)

Border Dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka

1111. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra on November 13, 1995, had requested the Central Government to resolve the long standing border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka:

(b) if so, the steps taken in response thereto; and

(c) the respective stands of the two States and the Central Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) A letter dated October 11,1995 was received from the Government of Maharashtra forwarding therewith a copy of the Resolution passed by the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly and the Maharashtra State Legislative Council on August 2, 1995 and August 8, 1995 respectively regarding the boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Government of India was requested by the State Government to intervene immediately and resolve the long pending dispute on the basis of the principles referred to in the Resolution.

(b) and (c) The boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka has been pending ever since the reorganisation of States in 1956. The Government of India has appointed the Mahajan Commission to look into this issue, and it gave its recommendations, in 1967, which were accepted by Karnataka in toto, whereas the Government of Maharashtra rejected them. The differences are persisting.

The Government of India is of the view that the dispute has to be resolved primarily by the two State Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accomodation, and it would be glad to render necessary assistance to the State Governments concerned in this regard.